

REMARKS

I. Introduction:

Claim 28 is amended herein. Claims 1-37 are currently pending. Applicants' acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 6-9, 15, 17, 20, 21, 26, 27, 34, and 35.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102:

Claims 1-5, 10-14, 16, 18, 19, and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,537,454 (Korver, II).

Claim 1 is directed to a tabletop device for use in supporting and positioning a patient in a medical therapy or diagnostic system having a support base and operable to project a beam over at least a portion of the tabletop device. The tabletop device is configured for mounting on the support base. Claim 1 requires, among other things: a central section configured for attachment to the support base, a frame fixedly attached to the central section and extending longitudinally outward from opposite sides thereof; and a support system connected to the frame for supporting a patient thereon. At least a portion of the frame and support system is located within the beam projection area when the tabletop is mounted in the medical therapy or diagnostic system and the portion of the frame located within the beam projection area is formed substantially from non-metal components. Applicants' unique construction as set forth in claim 1, provides improved transmission in the beam projection area.

Korver, II discloses a radiation therapy insert 10 for use with a treatment couch (Fig. 4). The table insert 10 is mounted to one end 26 of a conventional radiation therapy table 28. The therapy table 28 extends from the insert 10 all the way to the opposite end of the table. Korver, II does not disclose a frame attached to a central

section of a tabletop and extending longitudinally outward from opposite sides of the central section, as set forth in claim 1. Applicants' design is particularly advantageous in that both ends of the tabletop may be used for imaging.

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Korver, II and the other prior art of record.

Claims 2-5, 10-14, and 16, depending either directly or indirectly from claim 1, are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 18 is directed to a system for use in medical therapy or imaging. The tabletop comprises, among other things: a central section configured for attachment to the support base; a frame fixedly attached to the central section and extending longitudinally outward from opposite ends thereof; and a support system connected to the frame for supporting a patient thereon. Claim 18 is submitted as patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 19 and 22-25, depending either directly or indirectly from claim 18, are submitted as patentable for the same reasons as claim 18.

Claims 28-33 and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,868,103 (Pageot et al.).

Claim 28 is directed to a tabletop device comprising: a central section configured for attachment to a support base; a frame attached to the central section in a fixed position and extending longitudinally outward from opposites sides thereof; and a support system integrally mounted within the frame. The support system includes immobilization panels configured for immobilizing portions of a patient's body on the tabletop.

Pageot et al. disclose a surgical examination table structure. The table includes a plurality of panels each movable relative to the other panels, as shown in Figs. 2-11. In contrast, applicants' tabletop as set forth in claim 28 includes a frame attached to a

central section in a fixed position and extending longitudinally outward from opposites sides thereof.

Accordingly, claim 28 is submitted as not anticipated by Pageot et al. and the other prior art of record.

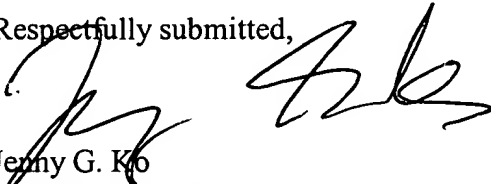
Claims 29-33 and 36-37, depending directly from claim 28, are submitted as patentable for the same reasons as claim 28.

III. Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-37 are respectfully requested.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 19-2179 (Order No. 00P7786US01).

Respectfully submitted,



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